

**Video Script: “A Message from the Inspector General: Audit on the FBI’s Management of its Confidential Human Source Validation Processes,” November 2019**

Hello, I’m Michael Horowitz, Inspector General for the U.S. Department of Justice.

Today we released a report on the FBI’s management of its Confidential Human Source program. The FBI relies on confidential sources to provide support for law enforcement and national security operations. But lessons learned from past confidential source problems has led Attorneys General to place a strong emphasis on oversight over confidential sources; and to the creation of the Attorney General confidential source guidelines.

We identified significant issues in our audit regarding both the FBI’s oversight of its confidential sources and the FBI’s compliance with the Attorney General Guidelines.

- First, we found that the FBI’s vetting processes for sources, known as validation, did not comply with the Attorney General Guidelines, particularly with regard to “long-term” sources,
- Second, we found that the Department’s review committee that approves the FBI’s continued use of long-term confidential sources had not vetted long-term sources in a timely manner and also did not comply with the Attorney General Guidelines.
- Third, we found that the FBI didn’t provide agents with clear guidance for how to communicate with confidential sources.
- Finally, we found that FBI employees were sometimes discouraged from documenting conclusions and recommendations about sources; and we identified issues with the FBI’s ability to align its confidential sources with its highest threat priorities.

Ineffective management and oversight of confidential sources can result in jeopardizing FBI operations, and placing FBI agents, sources, subjects of investigation, and the public in harm’s way. The FBI agreed with all of our recommendations to improve its management and oversight over this important program.

To read the report and all of our findings, visit our website, [oig.justice.gov](http://oig.justice.gov), or go to [oversight.gov](http://oversight.gov).

Thank you for joining us.

*(Stock media provided by composer William Pearson and publisher Prolific Two Publishing / Pond5.com, [www.pond5.com](http://www.pond5.com).)*